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LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you concerning the letter of the Croatian Foreign Minister of 12 November 1994 (S/1994/1286) and of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations of 11 November 1994 (S/1994/1285), both addressed to you and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The false, absurd and malicious allegations contained in the above-mentioned letters represent the latest wave of the anti-Yugoslav campaign aimed at discrediting the widely recognized constructive role of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the process of searching for a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, and the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular.

Such unfounded allegations are a clear example of the Zagreb Government's attempts to undermine ongoing peace efforts and to satisfy its internal propaganda needs in order to shift its own responsibility for the current situation to others.

The absurd charges contained in both letters concerning the alleged involvement of the Yugoslav army in the military activities in the United Nations Protected Areas and in Bosnia and Herzegovina represent a renewed deliberate attempt, inter alia, to disguise the incessant and acknowledged engagement of the Croatian regular army units in Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the very beginning of the civil war, in full view of the international community.

As has been stated in numerous reports of the Secretary-General, the Yugoslav army withdrew from the United Nations Protected Areas in early 1992 in accordance with the Vance plan. In addition, not a single soldier of the Yugoslav army remained in Bosnia and Herzegovina after May 1992. On the other side, the reports of the Secretary-General and the resolutions of the Security Council acknowledge the presence of Croatia's regular army units in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The allegations of the attacks by the Serb forces from the United Nations Protected Areas against the Bihac pocket have been firmly denied by the official representatives of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General De Lapresle and the spokesman of UNPROFOR sector south based in Knin, A. Roberts, as well as the commander of NATO southern wing, Admiral L. Smith.

General De Lapresle said "... there was no proof Krajina Serbs fought around Bihac ..." and that he was informed by the commander of NATO's southern wing, Admiral L. Smith "... that NATO too had no such evidence ...". An UNPROFOR spokesman said on Tuesday, 15 November 1994, that UNPROFOR monitors in the town of Bihac, 115 km south-west of Banja Luka, and in the town of Velika Kladusa, 40 km north of Bihac, have no information that Krajina Serb troops are within the Bihac pocket.

What lies behind Croatia's allegations of the alleged involvement of the Yugoslav army and the Serbs from the United Nations Protected Areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a thinly veiled attempt to provoke the military intervention of NATO on the Muslim-Croat side.

While the Croatian Government puts forward false accusations on the expulsion of the non-Serb population from the areas under Serb control, it fails to mention that thousands of Serbs from Bihac, Kupres and other areas were expelled in the latest wave of ethnic cleansing during the recent massive offensive launched by the Croat-Muslim forces throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, assisted by the regular Croatian army units. The Croatian representatives also failed to mention that more than 250,000 Serbs left Croatia as a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing, as was reported by the Secretary-General. This policy is still being pursued by the Croatian authorities since approximately 500 Serbs daily leave Croatia.

Furthermore, the Croatian Government closed its borders for 60,000 Muslim refugees from the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia, namely the Velika Kladusa area. Refugees, mostly women and children driven from their homes by the Fifth Muslim Corps, ultimately found shelter among the Serb population in the United Nations Protected Areas. This unprecedented inhumane act of the Croatian Government, which has caused an unfathomable human tragedy, was met with an unacceptably passive reaction by the international community as well as the international media.

Despite repeated warnings by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska to the international community of the imminent large-scale offensive by the Muslim-Croat forces throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, this was ignored and even encouraged by certain countries. However, when the offensive has been largely reversed by the Bosnian Serbs' counterattack, those very same countries, including Croatia, called upon the Security Council and NATO to intervene on the Muslim-Croat side, thus practically becoming a party to the war. Such hypocritical conduct cannot contribute to peace but to further escalation of the war with all unforeseeable consequences.

While it is increasingly being reported in the media and confirmed by high-ranking local and foreign officials that Croatia has been involved in illegal arms deals in violation of the relevant Security Council resolution, the

Croatian authorities have the audacity to put forward unfounded accusations concerning the ineffectiveness of the border blockade between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska despite the fact that the mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia have unequivocally confirmed that the border is closed for all goods except for humanitarian supplies. My Government has presented reliable and documented information to this effect on several occasions to the United Nations.

The allegations and unfounded attacks against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia advanced by Croatia tellingly prove that Croatia is not interested in a peaceful solution to the crisis and in normalizing its relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Croatian Minister for Foreign Affairs has already on two occasions failed to return the visit of the Yugoslav Foreign Minister and come to Belgrade to continue the talks. Instead, he has chosen to hold up the process by putting forward new and unacceptable conditions for the normalization of mutual relations.

For its part, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall continue to invest utmost efforts towards a speedy, peaceful, just and lasting solution to all outstanding questions to the benefit of all the peoples of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and stable peace and security in the region as a whole.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.